

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 01242 311426Z

ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJ: INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP ON SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES

1. EXPERT GROUP COMPLETED ITS REVIEW JANUARY 28. EXDIR
TOLBA IN CONCLUDING REMARKS INDICATED HE WOULD MAKE GROUP'S
REPORT AVAILABLE TO GC V. CONCLUSIONS OF EXPERTS CONTAINED
IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

QUOTE IV GUIDLINES FOR USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

"18. THE GROUP DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THE GUIDELINES NEEDED
FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY

SOUND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES. IT

WAS STRESSED THAT THERE WAS AN URGENT NEED TO COLLECT
STATISTICS AND OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION RELATING TO
PATTERNS OF RESOURCE USE, BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION ON THE ROLES OF VARIOUS
INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING TRANSNATIONAL ENTERPRISES, IN THE
EXPLOITATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES. WITH
REGARD TO GUIDELINES AIMED AT MINIMIZING ADVERSE ENVIRON-
MENTAL IMPACT ARISING FROM THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
AFTER CAREFUL DISCUSSION, THE GROUP CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS
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PAGE 02 NAIROB 01242 311426Z

NOT YET POSSIBLE IN MOST CASES TO DEFINE CRITERIA AND
GUIDELINES WHICH COULD BE FULLY OPERATIONALLY MEANINGFUL.
HOWEVER, IT WAS POSSIBLE TO LIST SOME OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES
TO WHICH CRITERIA OR GUIDELINES MUST BE DIRECTED.

"GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

"19. THE PRESENT PATTERNS OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION
IN THE WORLD, AND THE LIFESTYLES THEY ENGENDER, ARE

FREQUENTLY WASTEFUL AND/OR DESTRUCTIVE OF NATURAL RESOURCES. FUTURE PATTERNS OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION, AND THE CONSEQUENT LIFESTYLES, SHOULD BE SO DESIGNED THAT THEY CAN BE REALIZED WITHOUT SERIOUSLY ENDANGERING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

"20. CLEARLY, METHODS OF ASSESSMENT DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THE UNDESIRABLE DEPLETION AND DEGRADATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAVE TO BE FURTHER DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED, SUCH METHODS MUST INCLUDE IDENTIFICATION OF THE INTER-ACTION OF BOTH ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL FACTORS. IN GENERAL, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY AND EXAMINE THE IMPLICATIONS OF ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF DECISION-MAKING TO ENSURE THAT ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ARISING FROM RESOURCE USE ARE MINIMIZED.

"RESOURCE BASE

"21. WHEREVER POSSIBLE, INCREASED USE SHOULD BE MADE OF RENEWABLE AND RECYCLABLE RESOURCES.

"22. ENCOACHMENT EFFECTS OF RESOURCE USE SHOULD BE CONTROLLED.

"23. RESOURCES IN THE GLOBAL COMMONS SHOULD BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

"TECHNOLOGY

"24. RESOURCE-CONSERVING, RAW MATERIAL-SAVING, LOW-ENERGY, LOW-WASTE AND NON-ENCROACHING TECHNOLOGIES
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PAGE 03 NAIROB 01242 311426Z

SHOULD BE ADOPTED WHEREVER POSSIBLE AND MADE READILY AVAILABLE.

"ASSESSMENT/ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

"25. NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ASSESSMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTER-RELATEDNESS OF VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND THE DIFFUSE NATURE OF THEIR IMPACT, NOT ONLY IN SPACE BUT ALSO INCREASINGLY OVER TIME.

"26. 'ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING' SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AND USED WHEREVER POSSIBLE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, A CASE IN POINT IS 'ENERGY ACCOUNTING' WHICH WOULD FACILITATE GIVING PREFERENCE TO THOSE ACTIVITIES WITH LOW ENERGY REQUIREMENTS.

"IMPLEMENTATION

"27. METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION DEPEND, TO A VERY LARGE DEGREE, ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATIONS EXISTING IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. THE RELEVANT INSTRUMENTS CANNOT BE UNIFORM AND MUST BE ADAPTED TO SPECIFIC CONDITIONS.

"28. PRICES AND COSTS, AS WELL AS THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS GOVERNNING THE ACTIVITIES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, SHOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE REFLECT THE FULL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AND COST WHICH CAN BE ASCRIBED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE ENTERPRISES, IN ADDITION, ACCOUNT MUST BE TAKEN OF THE NON-QUANTIFIABLE BENEFITS OR COSTS OF SUCH ACTIVITIES TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

"29. DUE REGARD SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ENCOURAGING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISES TO ADOPT AND PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND PRACTICES. LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION PROCEDURES SHOULD BE INTRODUCED WHEREVER APPROPRIATE. BETTER USE OF RESOURCES MAY NOT ALWAYS REQUIRE TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, BUT OFTEN ECONOMIC, ATTITUDINAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES.

"30. A BROAD AND IMAGINATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION SHOULD BE TAKEN, INCLUDING NOT ONLY INCREASED ATTENTION TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 NAIROB 01242 311426Z

ECOLOGY AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DISCIPLINES IN FORMAL EDUCATION, BUT ALSO APPROPRIATE TRAINING FOR DECISION-MAKERS AND PROFESSIONALS AT ALL LEVELS.

"31. THE INTERDISCIPLINARY NATURE OF THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED MAKES ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM PARTICULARLY DESIRABLE. UNEP SHOULD VIGOROUSLY PURSUE ITS ROLE AS CATALYST AND CO-ORDINATOR ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES, AND SHOULD ENCOURAGE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT ACTIVITIES BY OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS. END QUOTE

2. FULL REPORT WILL BE SENT BY AIRGRAM WHEN IT IS EDITED AND ISSUED BY SECRETARIAT.
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